

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING

July 31, 2023

I. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew A. Payne convened an emergency meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) on July 31, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., by teleconference and Zoom video. The following Commission members participated: Michelle Blatt, Ex-Officio, West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools; Christina Cameron, Ex-Officio, Chair of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education; James W. Dailey; James Denova; Michael J. Farrell; Diane Lewis Jackson; Andrew A. Payne; and Gail Pitchford. Other participants included representatives from Alderson Broaddus University, Chancellor Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Commission staff, and others.

Chairman Payne secured a quorum and asked Chancellor Tucker to provide an update on the status of Alderson Broaddus University. Chancellor Tucker gave a detailed summary of the financial situation of the University and the reasons for the staff's recommendation that its authorization to confer degrees in West Virginia be revoked.

At the conclusion of the Chancellor's report, Chairman Payne invited representatives from Alderson Broaddus University to respond. Chairman James Garvin spoke on behalf of the University. He strongly objected to the emergency meeting stating that the Commission's planned action to revoke the school's degree-granting authority felt rushed, that it lacked due process, and he asked for a two-day continuance so it could address each of the Commission's concerns. President Andrea Bucklew concurred with Mr. Garvin's statement. She said that the institution has been transparent and submitted all requested information, that enrollment for the fall semester is as expected, and that "We do not agree there is an imminent financial loss."

Commissioner Cameron asked if the institution had received a termination notice from the City of Philippi for non-payment of utilities. Chancellor Tucker responded that it was received by the institution on July 19, 2023.

Chairman Payne concluded in consultation with counsel that the emergency meeting is valid, and that the University has the right to appeal the Commission's decision. He entertained a motion to revoke authorization of Alderson Broaddus University to offer degrees in West Virginia.

II. **Revocation of Alderson Broaddus University's Authorization to Confer Degrees in West Virginia**

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission revokes Alderson Broaddus University's authorization to confer degrees in the State of West Virginia effective December 31, 2023.

Further Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission authorizes the Chancellor to enter an order directing the steps Alderson Broaddus University must take to wind down its operations pending loss of its authorization, including, but not limited to:

- Not accepting, admitting, or enrolling new students beginning with the Fall 2023 semester;
- Not returning any current students to campus for the Fall 2023 semester, except for seniors scheduled to graduate at the end of the semester who wish to return to complete their degrees;
- Developing and executing appropriate plans related to the on-line teach-out and/or transfer of currently enrolled students;
- Immediately ending all athletic and extracurricular activities;
- Notifying all currently enrolled students of this loss of authorization and a detailed explanation of how this action directly affects them, what support services are being provided to them, and what actions they must take to obtain transcripts to transfer to another institution or complete graduation requirements at the University;
- Make advisors accessible and post those hours to meet with all currently enrolled students, either virtually or in person, to advise them of options to transfer to other institutions of higher education;
- Providing transcripts and financial aid records and/or assistance to students;
- Distributing degrees and certificates to students who have completed program requirements;
- Reimbursement to students, except those seniors who return for the Fall 2023 semester to complete their programs of study, of any payments that have been made for tuition and fees for the Fall 2023 semester; and

- Any other necessary and appropriate student services as specified by the Chancellor.

Commissioner Lewis Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Dailey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Andrew Payne

Andrew A. Payne, Chairman

Diana Lewis Jackson

Diana Lewis Jackson, Secretary